PANS Eaglet

The official newsletter of the Polish-American Numismatic Society

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Michigan Innovation Dollar Design Unveiled – Release Ceremony Set for April 8, 2025 at the Detroit Historical Museum

By: Steven Bieda

In April 2022 I was appointed by Governor Whitmer as the official liaison between the State of Michigan and the U.S. Mint for the selection of a theme and design for the Michigan Innovation Dollar. The coin will be officially released for sale via the U.S. Mint's website on April 8, 2025. A special release ceremony and coin exchange will be held on April 8, 2025, at the Detroit Historical Museum, located at 5401 Woodward Avenue near the Detroit Institute of Arts. The doors will open at 10 AM, with a brief program and coin exchange to follow. Members of PANS are invited to attend.

During my tenure as liaison, I've made a presentation before coin designers of the Mint's Artist Infusion Program, attended meetings of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee where I spoke in favor of the design Michigan selected, and attended a design review meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts. All of which fortunately were conducted on Zoom. I also personally met with Governor Whitmer, showing her all the submitted designs as well as informing her of the selected design (she liked it). The Secretary of the Treasury was presented with all of the designs and recommendations and signed off on the selection of the Michigan Innovation Dollar design in May 2024. The selected design was officially made public in December 2024 when the Mint released images of the coin on the "Product Schedule" section of the U.S. Mint's website.

The selected design was one favored by the State of Michigan, featuring a robust and active assembly line. The original design, which contained one worker, had been modified, per my request, to include more workers. The result was the tripling of auto-workers on the design, which I felt was important not only for historical accuracy, but also recognizing the importance of workers during each step of the process. Coming from an auto family, this was also personally important to me – as the most important component of the assembly line is the people working it. As I noted in my November 12, 2023, letter to the Secretary of the Treasury in favor of the modified design MI-06, "this design, in our view, most clearly reflects the vitality and movement of an automobile assembly line.

It shows the incremental progression of an automobile as it rolls down the assembly line, it also pays tribute to the creation of the middle class, with multiple workers in evidence on the design."

The Michigan Innovation Dollar was designed by Artist Infusion Designer, Ronald Sanders, and engraved by John McGraw. Both of their initials appear on the coin.

One interesting tie-in to Polonia is that the rise of the assembly-line corresponded to one of the largest periods of Polish migration to the United States. Thus the fate and prosperity of recent Polish immigrants to the United States, and in particular, Michigan, is intertwined with the rise of the auto industry that was fueled by the development of the assembly-line.

These coins are not being issued for circulation, but are being offered in rolls and bags on the Mint's website, as well as in four-coin proof and reverse proof sets, with both sets being issued later in 2025. The Release Ceremony set at the Detroit Historical Museum will offer interested individuals an opportunity to obtain an example of the new coin at face value.

Coins of the Congress Kingdom of Poland
By Christina E. Slobodnik

Some of the most important relics of the failed Polish revolution of 1831, the coins of the Congress Kingdom, remain valuable collectibles to this day.

"The third partition of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth ended the existence of an independent Polish and Lithuanian state for the next 123 years" according to Wikipedia.

After the third partition of Poland by Russia in 1795, Poland lost its independence and its Warsaw Mint to Russia for the next 123 years. It wasn't until 1918 that Poland regained its independence as a free Nation.

The Polish people had great hopes in becoming free again when Napoleon marched into Poland in 1807 and created the free "Duchy of Warsaw". This free territory lasted from 1807 to 1815. However, when Napoleon's army was defeated by the Russians in 1814 the French no longer had any control of the free "Duchy of Warsaw", territory that Napoleon created.

It was the Congress of Vienna in 1815 that turned the Napoleonic Territory of the free Duchy of Warsaw and the Warsaw Mint over to the Russian Empire and Czar Alexander I of Russia that created the "Congress Kingdom of Poland" and mintage began in 1815 to1825 in Warsaw.

Czar Alexander I even declared himself as "Czar of Russia and King of Poland" in the Polish language on the silver and gold coinage that was minted at the Warsaw Mint.

Czar Nicholas I, from 1825 to 1834, also had the title of "Czar of Russia and King of Poland" in the Polish language on silver and gold coins.

This was to show to the Polish people that Russia had all the domination and control of the Polish People and the Polish Nation.

The "Free City of Krakow" under Austrian rule in the southern part of Poland from 1815-1846 also struck its own coinage in 1835 at the Vienna, Austria mint in the 5, 10, Grosz and the 1 Zloty silver denominations. The 3 Grosz and the 2 Zloty coins were only pattern coins and were not in circulation.

Some of the most important relics of the failed first Polish revolution of 1830-

1831, the coins of the Congress Kingdom remain valuable collectibles to this day.

In addition to coins, paper currency was also issued in 1824, 1830 and 1831 by the Bank of Poland.

During the 1830-1831 first Polish Revolution, the Warsaw mint master Karol Gronau undertook the mintage of five coin denominations at the Warsaw mint — the copper 3 Groze, the silver 10 Groszy, 2 Zlote, and 5 Zlotych, the gold Dukat also the Zloty Jeden (ZI. 1) paper currency.

The obverse of the Revolutionary 1831 copper and silver coins depicted the Polish eagle and the Lithuanian Vytis, an armoured knight on horseback holding a sword. The Vytis was added in honor of the Poles' centuries-old union with Lithuania, even though the two kingdoms were officially separated in 1795 when the kingdom of Poland came to an end.

At the same time, there were five different Warsaw mint masters from 1815 to 1843 who oversaw the production of the Polish Russian coinage which featured Alexander I from 1816-1825 on the obverse and a Russian double headed eagle on the reverse. Czar Nicholas I also had his name on the reverse side of the silver and gold coins from 1827-1834 with the monetary denominations of 1, 2, 5,10 Zlo-Pol on silver coins and 25 and 50 Zlo-Pol on the gold coins.

However the uprising and revolution of 1830-1831 changed everything. On September 6th in War-saw, the Poles were defeated by a Russian army of 115,000 and the city was left in the hands of the enemy. The Poles surrendered on October 5th 1831 and Poland came to an end.

As payback for the rebellion of 1830-1831, the Russians removed the Polish eagle from the obverse of the coins and replaced it with their own coat of arms, the two-headed eagle.

Under their new captors administration, in 1832, the new silver coin denominations were in Russian and in Polish language. Silver coins starting with 1832 from the 15 Kopiejki / 1 Zloty, 30K./221. 3/4R./51., and silver crowns with the monetary denomination of 1/1/2R./10 Zl. of 1833-1841 had the two-handed eagle on the obverse side of the coin with the coin denomination of 1 ½ Rubles / 10 Ztoty on the reverse side of the coin as shown in the photo.

Also, gold coins from 1834-1841 were minted at the Warsaw mint with MW mint mark and the St. Petersburg mint mark.

In 1842, the złoty was completely replaced by the Russian ruble and in 1851 the Groszy was replaced by only using the Russian word Kopiejek.

Eventually, in 1850's and 1860's, all coins with Polish language denominations ceased to be minted and only Russian denominations on coins were used.

The Warsaw mint mark BM was last used on the Russian one kopiejeki copper coin minted in 1864.

When Poland regained its independence in 1918 the Warsaw mint was renovated and started to mint Polish coins once again in 1924.

Now, the centuries-long oppression of Poland and her people has vanished into history, but her coins of all times are remembered and faithfully collected to this day.

► Spot prices as of 25 March. 2025

Gold:	$ 3,022.00/troy ounce
Silver:	$ 33.54/troy ounce
Copper:	$ 5.09/pound
Platinum:	$ 999.00/troy ounce
Palladium:	$ 983.00/troy ounce

$US-Złoty exchange: 3.85

Have you been able to join us on the web? Try: www.pans-club.org. Or, on Facebook? If not, please go to Facebook, find PANS, and see what events are coming up for our society.

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Once again, come to the meetings and win

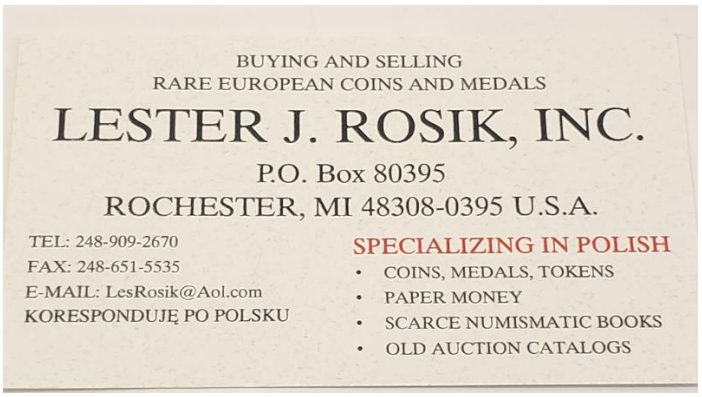
Your PANS meets once a month, and is generous in raffling off one Polish coin per meeting. Why not attend a meeting, and see if you can add something to your growing collection?

Send in your finds.

Have you found any Polish coins of note, perhaps squirreled away in some dealer's stock of foreign coins? If you have found a hidden treasure, or one hiding in plain sight, e-mail Mark a photo and a brief write-up of how you came upon it. The PANS members will most likely be interested in hearing about it.

Remember folks, please pay your dues for 2025! That's $20 for the year – $30 if you'd like the PANS Eaglet mailed quarterly.

Please support our advertisers and sponsors – thank you!



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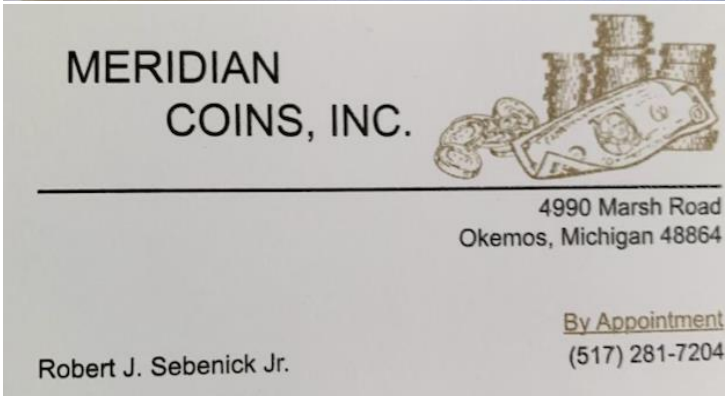

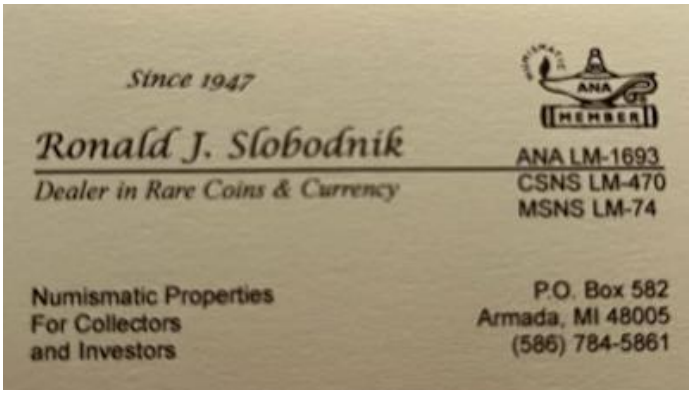

Polish-American Numismatic Society meets monthly at: American Polish Cultural Center, 2975 E. Maple Rd., Troy, MI 48083

Join Our Club

We meet on the first Saturday of the month at 12:00 PM at the American Polish Cultural Center located at 2975 East Maple Road (15 Mile Road) at Dequindre Road in Troy, Michigan. Visit the PANS Club website at www.pans-club.org for details. We currently have 10 meetings per year (August through May) with 2 months off during the summer. The Polish American Numismatic Society also plans a Christmas Oplatek Dinner during the Holiday Season. Meeting agendas include business matters and informative lectures from renowned guest speakers on topics including error and variety coins, significant coins in Polish history, Hamtramck scrip, coin photography. Open and lively member discussions about US and Polish numismatics are encouraged. Of course, the meeting would not be complete without coffee and delicious Polish pastries. The Polish American Numismatic Society hosts two very successful public coin show at the American Polish Cultural Center. Our primary show always takes place on the third Sunday of February. PANS also hosts a second show in August. Shows have been co-hosted with other clubs in the region. If you have any interest in numismatics, please attend a meeting and sign up as a member. PANS dues are only $20.00 per year or $30 per year if you would like the PANS Eaglet newsletter sent to your mail on a quarterly basis. PANS Club Membership is a great way to meet collectors with similar interests and knowledgeable dealers willing to share their experiences in a hobby that we all enjoy. To become a member-in-good-standing, plan to attend a minimum of 5 meetings per year and perform club-related duties at PANS Club sponsored Coin Shows.

Membership Application *I hereby make application for membership in the Polish American Numismatic Society, subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the Constitution and By-laws*.

SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE/ZIP: _____

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RECOMMENDED BY: _____

DATE ACCEPTED: _____

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I COLLECT: _____

Attend a meeting or mail to: PANS, PO BOX 80515, ROCHESTER, MI 48308